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SUMMARY

FAR EAST

1. Improvement of Chinese Communist airfield near Matsus possibly beginning (page 3).

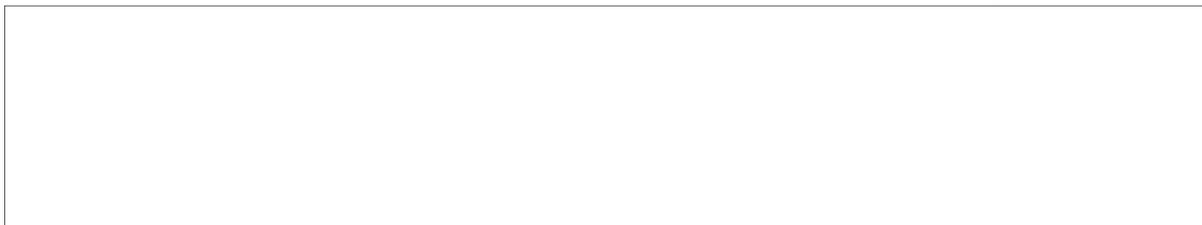
SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Burmese premier puts loose definition on Chinese Communist aggression (page 3).

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3. Turkey disturbed by Iraqi delay in developing defense pact (page 4).
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FAR EAST

1. Improvement of Chinese Communist airfield near Matsus possibly beginning:

[REDACTED] The air attaché in Taipei believes the Chinese Communists are beginning to expand the Nantai airfield at Foochow, about 40 miles west of the Matsus. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Comment: The runway at the Foochow field is too short for use by jet planes, but it can be extended to the required 5,000 feet in less than two weeks.

Construction work at the five other airfields in the Fukien area on the southeast China coast has not yet been observed. Improvement of at least one of the Fukien fields would be expected prior to the launching of Chinese Communist assaults on the Nationalist-held offshore islands. [REDACTED]

SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Burmese premier puts loose definition on Chinese Communist aggression:

[REDACTED]

Comment: This is the most explicit exposition of Nu's recent thinking on Peiping's policy. His complacency regarding the extension of Communist China's power into peripheral areas, especially Indochina, is in marked contrast to the apprehension in this regard expressed by Burmese leaders a year ago.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Turkey disturbed by Iraqi delay in developing defense pact:

[REDACTED] Turkey is increasingly concerned over the failure of Iraqi prime minister Nuri to agree on a proposed invitation to Pakistan to adhere to the Turkish-Iraqi defense pact. According to Ambassador Warren, the Turkish prime minister hopes for American and British pressure to convince Nuri that Pakistan's adherence is an essential first step in the development of the pact.

Comment: This is the first indication that Ankara is losing patience with what it feels is Baghdad's delay in developing the recent agreement. Ankara has always regarded Pakistan's adherence as essential to the "northern tier" concept and only agreed to the bilateral approach to negotiation of Middle East defense arrangements as a concession to Nuri.

Nuri has characterized Pakistan's adherence to the pact as "automatic." His delay in this instance probably results from the fact that Iraq's energies are currently devoted to forestalling the formation of a hostile Egyptian-Saudi Arabian-Syrian combination. [REDACTED]

4. Governor sees possible acceptance of self-determination for Cyprus:

[REDACTED] The British governor of Cyprus, Sir Robert Armitage, is reported to believe that an official declaration favoring eventual self-determination for the

island may be the only way around Cypriot refusal to discuss a constitution. According to the American consul at Nicosia, Armitage says he has reason to hope that London now may be willing to seek a formula including such a statement.

Comment: Armitage is in London for consultation. Up to this time Britain has refused to consider self-determination for Cyprus.

A British statement favoring self-determination probably would represent the minimum concession acceptable to Cypriot Nationalists. The continuing high pitch of anti-British feeling on the island is reflected in recent rioting, which was occasioned by the opening of the trial on 16 March of Nationalists accused of smuggling arms into the colony.